

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 018882

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-01

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DRAFTED BY OASD/ISA: COL. SKOGERBOE:CFE

APPROVED BY P: MR. SISCO

ARMY: MR. STOUT

DSAA:RVIOLETTE

DASD/ISA:JNOYES

PM/SAS:DJAMES

NEA/AFN:DLMACK

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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R 2,2103Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABATTRUEADWD

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHAIGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018882

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO

SUBJECT: SALE OF TANKS TO MOROCCO

1. AMBASSADOR IS AUTHORIZED TO OFFER KING HASSAN CASH SALE OF 28 OVERHAULED M48A3 TANKS FOR DELIVERY IN EARLY CY 1976 AT AN ESTIMATED UNIT COST OF DOLS. 370,000. DECISION NEEDED BY 15 FEBRUARY 1975. IF KING RAISES NEED FOR 2ND BRIGADE, THE CASH SALE OF 54 REBUILT M48A5'S FOR DELIVERY ESTIMATED TO BEGIN IN MID CALENDAR YEAR 1977 AT AN ESTIMATED UNIT COST OF ABOUT DOLS. 421,060 MAY BE OFFERED.

2. AS AMBASSADOR AWARE, DEMANDS ON U.S. TANK ASSETS HAVE CREATED SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR U.S. ARMY AND EXTENDED NEW PRODUCTION LINES 5-6 YEARS IN FUTURE. THEREFORE, IN
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PAGE 02 STATE 018882

DISCUSSION WITH THE KING, AMBASSADOR SHOULD EMPHASIZE EXTRAORDINARY GESTURE TO OUR CLOSE RELATIONS THAT THIS OFFER REPRESENTS. AMBASSADOR SHOULD ALSO INDICATE THAT USG CONTINUES TO TAKE NOTE OF EARLIER ASSURANCES THAT U.S. ARMS WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST FRIENDS OF U.S. FURTHER, BECAUSE OF DEMONSTRATED SENSITIVITIES OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, USG TRUSTS THAT GOM WILL NOT FLAUNT THESE ACQUISITIONS IN WAY DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS SPANISH REGIME.

3. THE 28 M48A3 TANKS WOULD BE COMING FROM REBUILD LINES AND WOULD BE IN LIKE NEW CONDITION. THE M48A5 TANKS WOULD ALSO BE COMPLETELY OVERHAULED TO PUT THEM IN LIKE NEW CONDITION AND WOULD BE UPGUNNED TO 105 MM. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE COMBINED OFFER IS BEST COURSE FOR GOM TO CONSIDER RATHER THAN THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE RAPID DELIVERY OF USED TANKS. THE ABOVE MIX WOULD ALSO ALLOW THE MOROCCANS TO HAVE ONE BRIGADE OF M48A3'S AND ONE BRIGADE OF M48A5'S WHICH IS BETTER TO SUPPORT LOGISTICALLY THAN A BRIGADE OF ONE HALF M48A3'S AND ONE HALF M48A5'S.

4. IF PROPOSAL ACCEPTABLE GOM, L/O'S WILL BE PREPARED INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS, TEST EQUIPMENT, TOOLS, AMMUNITION, QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAMS, PACKAGING, CRATING, HANDLING, TRANSPORTATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. IMPORTANT FOR GOM UNDERSTAND THAT IN VIEW OF DEMAND ON U.S. TANK ASSETS AND RISING COSTS, OFFER OF 28 M48A3'S MUST BE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY 15 FEBRUARY. IF KING DESIRES 54 M48A5'S LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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